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A&F ignores SVP call for clothes

Jarlath Moloney
Editor

Abercrombie & Fitch clothes, formerly the preserve of students returned from J1 holidays are now available to buy in Dublin.

However, calls for clothes to be donated to charity instead of destroyed by A&F, were ignored last week, ahead of the opening of its new store. The clothing giant would not comment on why the call to donate the clothes was declined.

Over 800 pieces of clothing were seized from a Limerick clothing shop, run by McGazz Ltd which the courts found were illegally reselling the merchandise in Ireland, without the express permission of the American clothing giant. Retail value of the clothes was said to be over €32,000, and also included Hollister clothes, which is also owned by the retailer, both firm favourites of students.

Conor Twomey of McGazz Ltd, said he bought the clothes legally in the US and paid the taxes and excise duty to bring them into the country. “These goods are absolutely 100% genuine and legal,” he said to the Limerick Leader.

Mid West regional VP for Saint Vincent De Paul, Michael Murphy requested the clothes be donated to the charity in these harsh economic times. “All we can do is express our disappointment that Abercrombie & Fitch haven’t decided to donate the clothes to charity,” said a SVP spokesperson to the Edition.

However, Abercrombie & Fitch recently avoided being involved with the courts itself, when Dublin City Council sent a letter of warning over the huge banner ad on the shop front at 34 College Green. The Council said the banner had been erected without planning permission, but was removed before the District Court finished legal proceedings.

The US retailer which also owns and operates Gilly Hicks and Hollister, which has a store in the Dundrum shopping centre, has been at the centre of controversy in the past. In 2003 Eduardo Gonzalez and several other African American, Asian and Hispanic former Abercrombie & Fitch employees took the retailer to court for racial discrimination.

Cases have also been taken in the US against the retailer for forcing staff to wear its clothing. Abercrombie & Fitch have also come under fire in the past for T-shirt slogans thought to be racially or gender insensitive. One such slogan, “Who needs brains when you have these?” was emblazoned across the chest of women’s T-shirts, and inspired a “girl-cott” by group of 13-16 year old girls in the US state of Pittsburgh.

However, the Human Rights Campaign, which works for LGBT equal rights in the US, gave the company a rating of 100 and named it “Best place to work for LGBT Equality” for the seventh time in 2012. The retailer’s website also states that “50% of stores associates are non-white,” but a company spokesperson refused to comment when asked about the ethnicity of its Irish store staff, and how it upholds the All American look.

The Irish Abercrombie & Fitch store opened a week later than scheduled on Thursday 1 November.
**THE EDITION | Wednesday November 7 2012**

**NEWS**

**Numbers**

- **50% Obama**
- **47% Romney**
- Poll forecast for the American election, for Obama and Romney respectively

- **3-2**
- Final score in the FÁIL Ford Cup final, as Derry overcame St Pat’s

- **25%**
- Unemployment figures in Spain

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**Ombudsman over 140 extra public bodies**

Darragh Mowlds
Deputy Sports Editor

New measures given to the Office of the Ombudsman will provide students with more power than ever before to challenge their colleges and universities about issues of discrimination and unfair treatment.

The government has announced that 140 extra public bodies, including all public third level institutions, are now under the remit of the Ombudsman, Emily O’Reilly. The Office of the Ombudsman examines complaints from members of the public who feel they have been unfairly treated by certain public bodies.

These organisations, which are now being monitored by the Ombudsman, include Vocational Education Committees, the Central Applications Office, FÁIS, the Transport Authority and the State Examinations Commission.

Ms O’Reilly has described the move as “historic” and intends to continue negotiations with the government about bringing more public bodies under the watchful eye of the Ombudsman.

What this means is that these bodies, including colleges and universities, are now open to investigation from this office. The move was welcomed by Ms O’Reilly who said “this will have a knock on effect calls over the decades, including from the UN, for the protection afforded by my office to be extended to these areas”.

Ms O’Reilly has made it clear that there doesn’t need to be a complaint for there to be an investigation, “if it comes to my attention either through the media or whatever that’s a significant issue of mal-administration within a government department or any of the new agencies that have been added on to my remit then, I can start my own investigation without a complaint coming to me,” she said.

What was also announced as part of this extension of power was that members of the public who have been turned down in an application to a third level institution, will now have the right to complain to the ombudsman.

The Minister for Public Expenditure, Brendan Howlin said that this is the most significant expansion of the jurisdiction of the ombudsman since it was set up.

He went on to say that this move would ensure that “fair treatment is always provided, as well as improving the quality of decision-making and increasing accountability.”

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**SU run Fed Up, Stand Up**

Andrew Donovan
News Editor

President of DIT Student Union (DITSU) David Keogon feel the new ‘Fed Up Stand Up’ campaign will garner much better results than seen in previous years.

“This is a new approach that the national council of the USI (Union of Students in Ireland) has come up with. It involves public meetings, local protests and protests targeting specific T.D’s.”

While this policy was decided at national level, President Keogon said that it is up to DIT as to how to implement their own strategies. “All the local students unions have been told by USI “you do whatever you want and whatever you think works best”.

President Keogon has a good relationship with the president of the Trinity College Student Union Rory Dunne and says they have similar plans for the ‘Fed up Stand Up’ protests.

“All our colleges are roughly in the same area but things that work well in Trinity might not work well here. In Trinity a large rally in the middle of the square might work but that wouldn’t work here because we don’t have one centralised location.

Trinity’s governing body is made up of academics within Trinity but our governing body is made up of local authorities, businesses and larger sections of the community.”

President Keogon feels the broader background of DIT’s governing board could be very beneficial. “I have met a few people since I’ve been president who truly would be devastated by further cuts. There was a girl who was living on the lowest possible state grant of €7 a week. She would go into Lidl and buy an industrial size packet of pasta and porridge. That would serve her for Lunch and Dinner for the week.”

President Keogon feels personally driven to protest the forecasted education cuts. “I’ve met a few people since I’ve been president who truly would be devastated by further cuts. There was a girl who was living on the lowest possible state grant of €7 a week. She would go into Lidl and buy an industrial size packet of pasta and porridge. That would serve her for Lunch and Dinner for the week.”

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**Charlie Heasman**

The problems concerning DIT’s Mature Access Course (MSAC), as recently reported in The Edition, appear to have been overcome, and the course is now back on track.

The MSAC scheme continues this year with a new uptake of Omani and also Saudi Arabian students, totaling some 75 in all. The income thus generated has allowed the Access Course to continue, and 47 MSAC students were registered this year.

It is understood that difficulties arose this year with wage negotiations and renewal of contracts of the teaching staff. However, those contacted declined to comment. What is known is that only one original lecturer, Will Peters (formerly lecturer and Course Co-ordinator), remains. His place as co-ordinator has been taken by Programme Manager Niamh Frawley.

The other remaining member of staff is programme project officer Bobby Maher. Mr Maher was able to confirm that those members of the teaching staff who had not returned to DIT this semester have found alternative employment with Dublin VEC.

The MSAC continues this year with five assistant lecturers. These include Will Peters, Susan Donnelly, Nevan Bermingham and David Rickard. The core basic modules taught remain exactly the same as in previous years. The MSAC and IPF programs are run in tandem, although the former is a one year course; the latter two.

During their first year, foreign students on the IPF course receive 24 contact hours per week; 20 hours devoted to English language and four to Irish culture. This is to ensure that not only will they have both sufficient fluency and the written ability necessary for third level education, but will also integrate into Irish college life.

Having completed their first year they then join the current intake of MSAC students where they attend the same core modules lectures and choose elective modules from the same undergraduate courses. The conflation of the two programmes is designed to further facilitate the social and academic integration of all students.

The Mature Student Access Programme at DIT has proved hugely successful in helping adults enter Third Level Education. Many of these students will be graduating from both DIT and other colleges this year. In an era of austerity and sweeping cutbacks in education it is heartening that it manages to continue.
Making it in a man’s world  
Rebecca Dowling  

Former head of DIT School of Languages Hélène Conway-Mouret made a brief and much welcomed return to campus on Friday, 2 November.

The reason for Hélène Conway-Mouret’s return is that she is now a Minister Delegate within the French government, to give an enlightening talk on ‘Women in Politics’. The story of Minister Conway-Mouret talks coincide with Ireland currently being ranked 99th in the world of women’s political representation in parliament; falling behind Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Professor Brian Norton, President of DIT, introduced French minister Hélène Conway-Mouret to speak on her political journey.

Originally from Lyon, minister Hélène Conway-Mouret began lecturing in DIT part-time in 1984, proceeding to help establish and build up the DIT School of Modern Languages. Minister Conway-Mouret made her return to DIT last week as the appointed Minister Delegate for French Nationals Abroad, in the French government of Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault.

Kenyan hit the ground running  
Ryan Nugent  

Geoffrey Ndungu retained his status as Dublin Marathon Champion last weekend pipping pre-race favourite and fellow Kenyan Robert Kipchumba in a close finish. The race took place across Dublin on Monday 29th October.

The Kenyan, who set a course record of 2:08:33 in 201, finished almost three minutes outside of last year’s time.

The enthralling event saw Ndungu, Kipchumba and Ethiopian Abdisa Beddada break from the pack with 10km to go, as all three kept pace with each other.

It was only with 3.5 km to go that Ndungu got any leeway. “I knew I was strong and I started pushing at 39km” said Ndungu, speaking after winning.

Ndungu said the triumphant Letterkenny woman. “As soon as the Olympics weren’t on I just put my head down in preparation of this".

“Anytime I come to Dublin I want to win this race.”

The Double Champion. “Anytime I come to Dublin I want to win this race.”

Strong and filled with confidence, Ndungu defeated pre-race favourite, Kipchumba and Ethiopian Abdisa Beddada.

Equal number of men and women ministers within his Cabinet. This dramatic gesture was welcomed by Minister Conway-Mouret, as she hopes it will mean other countries will lead by example.

It remained to be asked, after such an enlightening talk on women in politics, what advice would Minister Delegate Hélène Conway-Mouret give to women looking to enter the world of politics? After years of experience, minister Conway-Mouret has found that for women, the world of politics is not easy going. Strength and a good sense of who you are will see any woman survive in what can sometimes be the ‘verbally violent’ battlefield of politics.

Algorithm pairs students to suitable colleges  
Collin Layde  

Deceased students and staff of DIT were remembered this weekend at the college’s annual mass of remembrance at the Church of Mary Immaculate in Kevin Street’s Central Bank and former minister of state for the arts, Mr. Meara. The mass this Sunday at 2.30pm, this which year has a theme of remembrance. DIT, including the colleges which were amalgamated into the institute after its establishment, has some notable deceased alumni. This includes writer Brendan Behan, architect Sam Stephenson who designed the Dame Street’s Central Bank and former minister and father of Dublin MEP Gay Mitchell, Jim Mitchell. Tea and light refreshments will be available for all attendees.

The Nobel Prize for economics has been awarded to two US economists who have developed a method of allocating students to suitable colleges and schools.

Their research has devised new ways of assigning aspiring students to suitable schools and colleges.

The recipients worked separately on the theory and were jointly awarded the prestigious prize.

The Nobel Prize is focused on fairly allocating individuals with things, be they schools, organs or hospitals. Their findings have seen a complete overhaul of the manner in which many American public schools allocates places. The system has replaced the existing process where students would rank their desired high school by preference.

The intense competition for places in the most sought after schools led to parents listing their second choice as their first. This resulted in student’s who actually wanted to attend the school missing out on a place.

Roth devised the ‘incentive compatible system’ which increases student’s chances of getting a place in their desired school, in return for honest and open disclosure.

The system has already been adopted by all public schools in Chicago, New York and Denver. In New York the system has led to a 90 per cent drop in students being assigned to schools they had not requested.

Shapely received the award for his work on “the theory of stable allocation”, which Roth used the formula as the basis for the system.

The algorithm has since expanded to be used for different purposes, such as the allocation of elderly couples to hospitals and nursing homes. The system prevents

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UPC not blocking pirate bay  
The internet came alive recently with claims that UPC’s new blocking system, which is installed on their broadband service, was blocking torrenting sites, the Pirate Bay from being accessed.

Mr. Meara has stated that the problems experienced were due to periodic testing “carried out across our European network.”

The company stated to the Edition that “there are no plans” to block any torrenting sites from being used in its systems and that “UPC is not required by any court or authority to block the pirate bay and does not intend to voluntarily block the Pirate Bay.”

No Hogwarts for DIT  
DITSU’s Ents Officer Will Meara has shattered hopes that DIT might be transformed into Hogwarts for RAG week next spring.

Kevin Street student Martin Kelly made a post on the DITSU Ents Facebook page on October 3rd last asking DITSU to “legally change DIT to Hogwarts” for the fundraising week.

However, the Ents boss has confirmed that the Students’ Union will not be going ahead with the proposal.

“I told my reportees that came to me that it was a comment on the Facebook page made by a student that the idea would be cool but that was the extent of it,” Mr. Meara told The Edition on Monday.

“DITSU Ents are not transforming DIT into Hogwarts for RAG regardless of how much of an amazing idea it is.”

Fined for social media  
Galway man has been fined €750 for posting details about his former partner on his Facebook page which breached a barring order imposed on him.

Keith Heenan of Mervue, Galway, said he has pleaded guilty to breaching the bar - fixing order imposed on him.

The 39-year-old said that the details were posted on his page on five occasions before he took them down. “I just wanted to lash out and it was sheer stupidity,” Heenan said.

He pleaded guilty to breaching the bar- ing order and trespassing at his partner’s home.

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**NEWS**

**Student chance to vote on Saturday**

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

For only the second time in Ireland’s history, students will have a real chance to have their say in a referendum. This month’s Children’s Referendum will take place on a Saturday, as opposed to the traditional practice that referenda are held on Thursdays.

It has been widely discussed that the move will save the state €680,000 due to a shorter polling period, from 9am to 10pm rather than 7am to 10pm. However, arguably the main benefit of the change will be the enfranchisement of students, who have traditionally had their voice taken away in this kind of vote as many live away from home.

With over 160,000 third-level education students in Ireland, many of who have an active interest in politics, there has in the past been a significant loss to the democratic process of referenda.

In a speech entitled “Future of Saturday voting hinges on referendum turnout,” published on the Labour party’s website, Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore has stated that it is up to students to make their voice heard and pressure government to make Saturdays the norm for referenda.

“After long years of campaigning, Labour Party campaigners hand out leaflets on the Children’s Referendum, which will be held on Saturday, November 10th. Photo: The Labour Party

**Church role in schools to be reviewed**

Colin Layde
Deputy News Editor

Parents around the country are to vote on whether to begin removing schools from the control of the Catholic Church.

The measure is aimed at reducing the Church’s dominance of education in the state and handing over schools to other bodies. Currently the Church controls 92 per cent of Irish primary and secondary schools.

The Church concedes that greater choice is required to reflect a more secular and multicultural Ireland.

The Department of Education began surveying parents last month. The surveys will be conducted in the remaining 39 areas this month.

Parents around the country are to vote on whether to begin removing schools from the control of the Catholic Church.

The Department of Education began surveying parents last month. The surveys will be conducted in the remaining 39 areas this month.

Parents will be initially asked whether they believe greater diversity in Irish schools is necessary, and then asked to vote in order of preference of the bodies who have expressed an interest in running local schools.

Will UK allow prisoners vote?

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

In just over two weeks time, the deadline will expire for the government of the United Kingdom to decide which prisoners are enfranchised within their voting system. David Cameron, however, has stated that on his watch, no prisoner will be given the opportunity to vote.

By missing the deadline, which derives from a European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruling earlier this year, compensation could become payable to prisoners who have been denied the vote.

In light of this, Ministers in the UK government are discussing how a plan could be organised to fulfil the requirements of the Scoppola v Italy ruling, which states simply that governments must specify which types of prisoners are allowed to vote. There may be bans, but they cannot be blanket and indiscriminate.

With this in mind, the UK may look to Ireland for guidance. Having allowed all prisoners to vote since 2007, Ireland now has some experience in the area. Prisoners in this country are permitted to vote by post if they are in prison at the time of an election, or are allowed to vote in person if they are on temporary release or parole at the time.

However, Dr Cormac Behan, lecturer in criminology at the University of Sheffield, has found that the uptake of this opportunity has been relatively low. In an article published earlier this year, Dr Behan said that only 14 percent of those prisoners eligible to register to vote actually did so, but almost all of those who did register went on to vote.

“Disillusionment with civic society and a deep disconnection from government, politicians and the political system in general,” were found to be the core problems with prisoner enfranchisement.

For the UK, it may not be advice or experience that is the deciding factor, but intrusiveness. In 2011, Ministers voted in the House of Commons to maintain the blanket ban on prisoner voting, by an overwhelming 234 to 22.

This deep-seated belief will, in the coming weeks, clash with the advice of the UK Attorney General, Dominic Grieve, who has said that their law will have to fall into line with the ECHR, or risk damaging its international reputation.

Go on-line to www.edition.ie to have your say on this topic.
DIT begins search for new leader

Barry Lennon

Brian Norton’s 10-year-term of office as DIT’s President will end in 2013, the college’s governing body was reminded recently.

At the last meeting, the chair of the governing body Sean Doran announced that he would consult with the Higher Education Authority (HEA) before beginning the search and advertising for the position, according to Head of Public Affairs Melda Stanley.

The Edition contacted the President’s office, but Norton did not wish to comment on the appointment of a new president. He said that it would not be appropriate for him to comment as he was not involved in the appointment process. The Edition could not confirm whether Norton wishes to seek another term of office.

Norton first took to the helm of DIT as the college’s second President in 2003, succeeding Belfast man and former Queen’s attendee Brendan Goldsmith, who remained as a Maths research professor in DIT after leaving the position.

Like his predecessor, Norton has a Northern Irish academic past. Before his presidency in DIT, he worked as an academic and college administrator in the University of Ulster, holding the titles of Professor and Dean of Built Environment Engineering.

Norton has earned his academic credentials in solar energy and as a result has chaired the World Renewable Energy Network, advised Northern Ireland’s assembly on renewable technology and is a fellow of several related institutions as part of his responsibilities. During his time in DIT, Norton has overseen the progress of the Grangegorman project. The plan ensures that the next Presidential term will oversee one of the largest recent developments in Irish education with 22,000 students move to the North Dublin site.

It is expected that a new President will be found near the end of this academic year, when Norton’s current term will come to an end.

All the president’s men

Barry Lennon

One of the first people the Edition sees in Aungier Street’s canteen at 8.30am is DIT’s President, Brian Norton, making notes on a research paper half an hour before this interview.

He is a regular sight around campus. This gives him an opportunity to get feedback from students and staff, he explains later in his office. “It’s not that I like to be seen but I like to see what’s going on. As the President this keeps you grounded and gives you a sense of student life. If all you hear is what comes up through the system people will just tell you what you want to hear,” the English professor says.

Norton’s reasoning for his regular appearances in the canteen and the arrangement of his office (or ‘meeting space’ as he prefers to call it) suggest that human interaction dominates his job.

There is a large boardroom sized table which sits 12 and beside it is a couch and coffee table for more informal encounters. He has no desk of his own in the room as he spends much of his time walking or driving to one of DIT’s 38 buildings scattered throughout the city.

Norton describes his role. “There’s no routine to the job. A lot of it involves meetings, setting strategy, influencing the public policy debate and delegation. It has been described as steering an oil tanker because you turn the wheel and wait to see it turn slowly.

“Particular days can be long. I attend the Dublin Chamber of Commerce to keep in touch with employers, whose meetings start at 7.00 in the morning. And then I might end in the evening by opening an event making it a long day,” he says.

Despite the busy schedule Norton continues to do research and supervise PhD students so as to remain grounded in the institution, he says. Before the interview, he was working on a research paper on solar energy; his specialty since his days in the University of Ulster and Cranfield University in the 1980s.

Norton, although keenly interested in the development of solar energy in DIT, is conscious not to promote his ‘own hobby horses.’ When speaking about his specialisation, he gestures to the solar panels on top of Kevin Street from his office window, before adding, “Most of that has nothing to do with me at all.”

One major preoccupation of the job since he began has been the Grangegorman project which has had many setbacks.

“It’s been a rollercoaster ride. One of the challenges is that it’s had so many false dawns that it can be difficult to convince people it’s for real. I worry some colleagues haven’t grasped that this is real things. We are actually moving. We will have 10,000 students there by 2017.”

Central government has put the plan to fore. Government has also fixed the President’s annual salary at €193,843 under the Croke Park agreement until 2014 against a backdrop of educational cutbacks.

“Don’t I think it is for me to say (whether the amount is appropriate) as it is set nationally but I think all think all things should be reviewed when it comes to it (2014),” Norton says.

The professor may no longer remain as President by then, as his term comes to an end this year. Although he did not say whether he would stay on, he indicated what influences his decisions.

“I enjoy it. I like the engagement, solving problems, learning about different fields working at this level. If I didn’t enjoy what I was doing I’d go and do something else.”

Four floors below President Norton, the SU President ploughs ahead

Andrew Donovan

News Editor

David Keoghan rolls his eyes, places his palms flat on the table and unleashes an almighty sigh. Its a gesture he is making more and more often these days since becoming President of DIT Student Union (DITSU) during the summer. Especially when he’s asked about Third Level Fees and their insurmountable rise over the past few years with the possibility that they will rise again this December under his watch. “It’s an enjoyable job,” he says. “Sometimes I have to remind myself it’s an enjoyable job but I absolutely love it.”

His office is four floors below Brian Norton’s and betrays the cluttered lifestyle of one who’s true home isn’t a Dublin office. “I come from a farming background in Cavan going back years so it took me a while to get used to Dublin. When I’m at home I salute everyone even if I don’t know them. It’s very hard to get a sense of community here. I’m used to making eye contact with everyone I meet on the street but I live in the North Strand now after moving from Drumcondra and I don’t make eye contact anymore.”

Keoghan studied Manufacturing and Design Engineering in Bolton Street and says he spent the first year of DIT blissfully unaware of the existence of the Student’s Union (SU).

“My cousin was running the go-karting club so he told me to join. I went on a few trips with them and really loved it. I became treasurer for go-karting at the end of second year along with Graham Higginbotham.”

In the camaraderie of his engineering class and his time spent in the Bolton Street SU, Keoghan found a sense of community that had been lacking since his move away from home.

“My friends and I were always down in the SU in Bolton Street just because it had nice couches. I didn’t know it was called the SU, I just knew it as the place with the pool tables.”

He describes the daily grind as significantly more work than 9-5 but then is more than compensated with a €23,000 salary partly funded by our fees - €355 of our €2,250 funds the SU and other student services.

“Look, I don’t do this for the money and I think anybody who does is in the wrong line of work. The money means I’m covered for food and rent and allows me to have to look for a part time job but that’s all it provides for.”

Keoghan feels his job is more humbling than powerful “Some of DIT’S Governing board come with a huge amount of experience. They are county councillors, academics, doctors, and then you come in as a whistleblower with only an undergraduate degree and they listen to every word you say because you represent the entire student voice.

“Then you do a class rep recruitment and you’re trying to tell students something and they’re like ‘what?’ so itshumbling when you have to simplify everything and make it actually relevant to the students.

No one should ever let the power go to their head because the students will let you know very quickly that you are there to represent them.”

The defining issue of Keoghan’s presidency and that of all current student politicians is Third level fees. So just why should be education treated as a sacred cow compared to all other Government departments?

“Think without education we will become a very xenophobic and racist society. I hear people blaming foreigners for the mess we are in now but that they were happy to let them come here and do the jobs we didn’t want to do. Education opens up a different view of the world.

Coming from a staunch Fine Gual back-ground. He says his Granddad would turn in his grave if he knew he wasn’t fully behind Fine Gual.”

“I have a lot of respect for Ruairí Quinn but I just don’t understand why he is doing this to students. He signed a pledge that he wouldn’t touch fees which he’s broken. He may think that an extra €250 isn’t much of a difference but there are a lot of people out there who couldn’t take another increase.”
‘Dul chuith shiféal nó driftáil’, Óiche ‘Tóg amach mé’ agus an t-Oireachtas

Seosaimhín Ni Ghallachair
Eagarthóir Gaeilge

Anois den chéad uair d'éagsaí ‘Glaotha ar Chlubanna óige, Conradh na Gaeilge’ a bhaint amach i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Roinn sé an bhfuil scéalaíochtaí Google trí scéalaíocht a fháil amach óna gcluiche agus ag fuil aithint do Phoblacht na nGaeilge.

Cuirtear é chun na h-ionaid a bhaint amach ag an gCumann Gaelach DIT agus an t-óige a chuirfeadh idirnáisiúnta.

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Grad cost rises

Matthew Colfer

The new gym at DIT Kevin Street was officially opened on Tuesday of last week, 30 October.

The refurbished facilities now boast a multi-purpose sports hall, indoor cycling studio, strength and conditioning studio, 18m four-lane swimming pool and a state of the art gymnasium with world-class technogym equipment.

To coincide with the opening of the new gym a number of students were asked; “What do you think of the new gym?”

Out of all the students asked only two were able to give their opinions. Tourist Marketing graduate Valentina Velisova thought this of the new facilities “The changing rooms are much more spacious and nicer in general. The equipment is better and the reception is also nicer.”

While second year Electrical and Control Engineering student Joseph Wellwood stated “More barbells are needed, I don’t know if they’re going to get more but they could do with another one or two. Apart from that everything is deadly.”

From asking students if they used the new gym facilities in the first week it has become clear that there is a lack of knowledge about the opening of the Kevin Street gym.

Many students’ responses to the question above were “I didn’t know it was open.” or “when did it open.”

Clearly more needs to be done about the publicity of the new facilities after such a heavy investment was made to complete the refurbishment.

If you would like more information about the DIT Kevin Street gym opening hours, class times or membership details you can visit the website www.ditopenair.com or like their Facebook page www.facebook.com/fit2goabt.

New gym open on Kevin St

Andrew Donovan

News Editor

More and more DIT Graduates are complaining about the cost of graduating this year.

A representative of Armstrong & Oxford Ltd told The Edition they have received complaints from students about the cost. It is €75 total for an undergraduate ceremony and €80 for a masters ceremony.

Stephen McEvoy posted on DIT Student Union’s Facebook page “Can you explain to me, why Armstrong & Oxford Limited are charging DIT graduates €50 more then other colleges for instance DKIT (€30) for their robes on graduation day.”

The Edition has learned that the reason for the price difference is a €5 increase on the cost of robe hire and the fact that Armstrong & Oxford are collecting a €45 fee on behalf of DIT.

Dr. Noel O’Connor Director of Student Services said “the €45 is a contribution to the costs associated with the graduation event itself & Patrick’s Cathedral;

printing; hospitality; administration etc for the 13 graduation ceremonies. The €30 is a payment to the Robing Co as a supplier of academic robes. This payment has always existed and does not come to DIT. It moved from €25 to €30 this year after 5 years with no change.”

“The graduation event is a highlight in the academic year... Each year we have 13 graduation events each involving 1,000 graduates/visitors or 13,000 people, in total,” said Dr O’Connor.

“There is a substantial cost associated with the event and we are facing major funding challenges. The Institute budgets have been reduced in line with Departmental allocations and this year we face the prospect of a further 8% reduction in overall budget allocations.

We have tried to reduce costs by being very selective about leverage better value for money. There has always been a charge for graduation robes.

I can understand that it is an additional demand on students. We are doing our very best to minimise costs to the graduate and we will continue to seek ways of further reducing costs.”

Retail trends in North America

Kyle B. Murray

Associate Prof. of Marketing, University of Alberta, School of Business

As a Canadian I have found my three-months as a visiting professor at DIT to be very easy, enjoyable and engaging. To a large extent, my experience reflects the many principles: great supply chains and convenient store locations, which make retailing in North America unique. More than 100 islands of Ireland would fit into Canada, which means that transporting goods and building national brands requires a different approach.

As a result, retailers in North America have built their businesses on two core principles: great supply chains and convenient store locations. This has allowed retailers to deliver products to where the customers live, even if that company is in Toronto and the customer is more than 4000 kilometers away in Vancouver. Retailers like Walmart, Home Depot, Best Buy, Target, The Gap, Loblaws and Indianna Ti are have made billions of dollars with this model.

However, there is very little room left in which to grow great retail businesses by simply supplying common products to convenient big box stores. Those are the trends of the past century. Today, retail success is about connecting with the customer. Companies like Apple and Hulahemont are leading the way in this regard. Research has shown that a retailer’s best customers – often called “angels” – generate large profits, but the “demons” destroy it. In fact, removing one demon customer can be as valuable as adding an angel.

To truly understand which customers are angels and which are demons requires a substantial investment in two areas that many retailers have never been very comfortable with: electronic retail sales and big data set analysis. Although e-commerce has been around for the past 15-20 years, retailers and researchers still know very little about how to manage it and make money from it. Nevertheless, there is a clear consensus that electronic sales are a critical component of the future of retail. While traditional bricks-and-mortar sales grow at a rate of a few percent a year, online sales are growing at more than 25%.

Similarly, retailers know that the customer data they get from online and in-store sales has tremendous potential value. According to a recent study by McKinsey, retailers can increase their operating margins by as much as 60% when they are able to effectively turn those large data sets into customer insights.

Harvard Business Review reports that 85% of Fortune 1000 CEOs expect substantial gains from their company’s use of big data. Yet, only 15% of those CEOs feel that they currently have adequate access to the right type of information. We are witnessing the early stages of a major transition in retailing towards data-driven management.

Although the history of retail in North America has been about product supply chains and convenient store locations, the future is about customer portfolio management driven by executives who are able to make decisions from data – exactly the kind of thing that the Dublin Institute of Technology excels at teaching.

Student Shopper

Dublin witnessed the opening of a new landmark shop in the heart of the city centre. A shop that once the Celtic tiger ended with no sign of it venturing to our shores many assumed it would never arrive. But it has arrived and when it opened its doors for the first time on Thursday last hundreds of teenagers eagerly queued up outside to purchase what are in my opinion very overpriced clothes especially for students which is the shops target market. Of course there are other things that entice people (especially girls) into coming in to the shop the most famous of these being the models (gorgeous shop assistants paid to stand around and take photographs and interact with consumers) and while the Abercrombie and Fitch experience is unlike any other and in definite worth visiting the shop even just once to experience it for yourself we are going to take a look at some cheaper alternatives to get yourself some of these seasons must haves.

Penney’s: every Irish person under the sun knows Penney’s was great for those “disposable wear once clothes during the boom” however recent years with the recession in full swing. This

As Abercrombie & Fitch comes to Ireland, our student shopper heads out to see the best value clothes stores around town

Holy Grail of shops has managed the impossible to improve the quality and range of its clothing range while still maintaining its low prices. While River Island was every Irish person’s dream shop when they were a teenager it can be very expensive for what you get and unless someone’s birthday/other special occasion and you’re splurging on shoes/a bag/or purse I’d steer clearly especially if saving money is your aim.

For cheap yet good quality high street New Look and Forever 21 are some of the best shops around. Good quality and affordable they also offer a wide range of styles, colours and sizes. Forever 21’s range of jewelry is especially great! Charity shops are no longer just for costumes for Halloween either, they can be a treasure trove of hidden gems waiting to be found. From dresses for that night out, to designer everything for day to day wearing.

EBAY is the place to go. You can find everything here from ball gowns to t-shirts and literally everything in between. EBAY is the perfect place to pickup that each of a kind item or discounted designer piece you’ve had your eye on for ages.

Dedicated online clothes shops are also brilliant for picking up affordable fashion. Popular ones include ASOS and boohoo.com but others are waiting to be discovered where you can still get unusual things that nobody else has clothing.ie and www.missguided.co.uk.

Have a swap party with your friends. Yes it sounds horribly American and cheesy but it can be a great way to get some new stuff that you would never have thought of buying for yourself and you can get free advice on what would suit you. Just grab a few friends get everyone to bring some things they’ve never worn or are sick of. Make sure they’re clean and in good quality. And get swapping.
Everybody loves Ray... Foley! DIT’s grad moves from Today FM to 98FM

On Friday 12 October, Ray Foley announced that he was leaving Today FM to work on the breakfast show on 98FM. This announcement came as a shock to listeners but for Foley it’s a move that he has wanted to do for some time now, “For the last year I’ve had a feeling that I’ve wanted to do something else,” said Foley.

Ray Foley first found his love for radio while doing a Journalism degree in DIT. Although he had a notion of journalists being “extremely well paid” and “going out to drink after work,” he soon realised that this wasn’t the case. Foley struggled with the course in DIT as he had found too much theory and not enough practical based work.

Even though it took Foley and fellow co-star JP Gilbourne six years to complete the course they finally graduated in 2004. At their graduation ceremony, lecturer in DIT, Michael Foley, commented that the pair were finally leaving.

Whilst Foley was studying for his finals in college, he began working in Today FM. Up to this point, he had done previous work in stations such as 98FM and Spin 103.8, but when the station producer was looking for a side-kick for JP Gilbourne, Foley stated that he “really wanted him on the show.”

Foley commented that when working with a friend “there’s very little meetings required. He just knows me.” He also said that “there’s just natural chemistry there.”

In 2006, Foley got his own show on Today FM at a very popular time slot. The Ray Foley Show airs Monday to Friday from 12pm to 2.30pm. Upon getting this show, Foley stated “I was nervous about it. I’d been hearing about it too. It’s just in my nature. I approach all my shows with more anxiety then happiness.” The radio DJ went straight to work as he said he “was happy for about an hour and then thought: what am I going to do with this?”

Foley also commented on the pieces of advice no one ever tells you whilst studying in college. He said “yes it’s amazing but eventually it becomes a job, you’re going through the motions and nothing is ever as exciting as you think it will be.”

When interviewing celebrities, Foley said most celebrities go through the motions of “I’ll ask you this question, you give this answer.” However, in 2003 he did interview Justin Timberlake and he “really made an impression” on Foley.

Foley felt that he “was the type of guy he would love to go for a beer with.” “Take Me Out! I launched Foley into the land of television in 2010. Upon getting the presenting job, he said he was “terrified at the prospect of getting live TV.”

But once he went on the show he loved it and is now on his fourth series of the show. However, he did comment that “it’s like a boy girl factory, a tornado of single people being blown in your face.” He also stated that “he never feels sorry for them [the boys] as they know what they’re getting themselves in for.”

Earlier this year, Foley’s son was born and it seems like the radio DJ has a lot to manage. But Foley feels like the move to 98FM will good as he “will be home by lunchtime.” Foley said that “it will be better for me as I can spend so much time with my son.”

Foley can’t wait to get started in 98FM. He feels it will be a difficult move, but one that’s been coming a while.

Blind ambitions help young Irish fight recession

In a time of gloom and doom, young entrepreneurs are beating the recession and making money. But how?

Tadhg Darcy started his own blinds business at the tender age of 16 in March 2000. His father ran his own company in the south-east. I have a monopoly! The lack of competition due to the recession is a major bonus.”

“I have faced some difficulties such as competition from the internet companies. They can afford to sell low-quality blinds for a lot cheaper prices. Also, balancing student life and a business is tough. Honestly I don’t really get much study done- it’s all about the business. It consumes my life and social life. I’ve never had anything to do with students as they know what they’re getting for themselves. I’ve made a lot of money and advice to young people beginning a business is to get a recession and despite what most people think, it has actually helped my business. In 2012 the golden pages had 29 pages of advertisements for blinds companies. Two weeks ago, there were only six adverts, including my own. In fact, I am the only advertisement for blind repair and cleaning in the golden pages in the whole south-east. I have a monopoly! The lack of competition due to the recession is a major bonus.”

“Hard times have encouraged youths to innovate, discovers Sorcha McManigal”
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Singer, writer and music lover, Ciara O’Connor is a current student in DIT, studying in the Brighton Institute of Modern Music (BIMM) and making waves in the local music scene.

Victoria Kinsella talks to singer, writer and music lover, Ciara O’Connor who is studying at the Brighton Institute of Modern Music in Dublin and making waves in the local music scene.

What started your love of music?

A

My family has always been extremely musical and I was lucky enough to attend a performing arts based secondary school in London that opened me up to a lot of performance and dancing. My mum works as a music therapist in a rehabilitation hospital where she uses music to help in the recovery of children and adults following traumatic brain injuries. I frequently help out in the hospital and seeing the power of music in that environment and how much it can help first hand is incredible. No matter who you are or how brain damaged you may be there will always be a sense of connection that can only ever be created by music and I love that.

Is it a difficult industry to get into?

A

In terms of even trying to get your stuff heard in the first place, the internet is a huge help especially with the likes of YouTube and Soundcloud. Everyone seems to have a home recording system these days and can get their own songs on iTunes very easily. This is great but also makes it very hard to get noticed. It’s an incredibly difficult industry to be involved in and dependent on. There’s never any guarantee of success and I’ve come across some pretty nasty people when it comes down to labels and money. But without sounding too cheesy, when you love something that much you can’t not pursue it and put up with all the negatives with the chance to do what makes you happy. You’ve just got to really love it.

What is your favourite genre and what have you specialised in?

A

I go through some pretty random phases and I definitely appreciate talent in every genre be it even hardcore metal or classical stuff, there will always be something I like. The most influential genre on my vocals would definitely be soul. I’ve spent a long time stripping down heavily produced songs to just me and my guitar but I’m now enjoying being involved in a lot of the producing side and layering up sounds with drum bass and synths.

Are you planning to go and sing in public auditions such as “The Voice” or “X Factor”?

Q

A

I find as soon as you audition for a show like that you’re instantly associated with them. That being said, there are a lot of great success stories and I’d never judge any one that does because those shows can suit some people very well. It just wouldn’t give me quite what I’m looking for in music.

The most influential genre on my vocals would definitely be soul

Who else have you worked for in regards to music?

Q

A

I was lucky enough to come across a record deal last summer and I wasn’t expecting anything. I got a real taste of the industry, good and bad. Things got very messy balancing school and flights all over the place and I wasn’t prepared to drop out of school so close to the end and needed to make a choice. The label weren’t exactly understanding or patient and everything fell through. It was a great experience and I learned a huge amount about how to deal with the pressures that come with a career in music. I wasn’t ready then and I am happy to have completed my leaving cert and to now be studying music in BIMM to mature and have options that ensure I can always have a career in music if it big or small. That’s all I really want.

Who are your idols in the music industry?

Q

A

I definitely admire Frank Ocean.

LIFESTYLE

www.edition.ie
Yum Thai puts the ‘oo’ in noodles without breaking the bank

Phelim Connolly

I roll up enthusiastically to Yum Thai after and am more encouraged when I see the big poster on the window offering a FIVE EURO Student lunch deal. The shop front has a clean veneer of white and green colour tones and big windows which invite your eyes in. The interior is cosy with four high stools and big transparent windows allowing you to watch the chefs at work. It feels clean with white tile walls and sparse functional design.

I ordered the chicken pad thai and my favourite noodle dish was served immediately into a take away noodle box. The dishes aren’t cooked to order, instead they are served from a bain-marie behind an open window. The menu includes the usual Thai dishes such Thai green curry and chilli beef.

Pad Thai, the most popular of Thailand’s celebrated cuisine is a stir fried rice noodle dish generally containing eggs, fish sauce, tamarind and red chili. Extras can include bean sprouts, peanuts, coriander and lime juice. This Pad Thai was altogether different. The soggy, sticky rice noodles were loaded with fish and tamarind sauce which overpowered everything else. Chunks of chicken breast were mixed within but were utterly tasteless. The portion size, however was generous to say the least with enough for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

I sat outside on the bench, munching away watching the many students and office crowds coming in and out. The place is very busy which is a great sign that they are doing something right here. Value for money dining has finally returned with vigour to Dublin city.

Yum Thai is an example of exactly that. The food itself is far more quantity than quality. This 5 euro Noodle bar is probably one of the best budget friendly eateries on the south side of the city.

Have a healthier winter with the Nutrition Society

DIT’s Nutrition Society help you break the cycle of the terrible student diet

F fresh into college? Living away from mum/mum’s cooking? Or back to college and sick of pot noodle? This is the ideal time to get into a routine of healthy eating, so it becomes an easy part of your day as opposed to something the doctor is telling you, thirty years from now, that you should have been doing all along. (You’re overweight in thirty years. And probably wearing a onesie.)

A few easy habits will maximise your health, happiness and performance… and not just academically. So take on even one of these steps and your wallet, grades and waistline will show you why.

1. Have a breakfast! Whether you’re at risk of being overweight, underweight or just not performing to the max. Studies have shown that people who regularly skip breakfast are 450 per cent more likely to become obese, that they underperform in college and have less energy. Weetabix, Special K, wholesome toast, porridge, fruit in yoghurt etc. all make excellent breakfast choices. Not sugar puffs or cookie-fleckin-crisp.

2. Pack a lunch. Save a load of money. Also, planning the meal ahead of time may incorporate sense. Deciding what to have at actual lunch time when you’re foaming at the mouth will activate the primal desire for the highest calorie option, which is often a nutritionally poor one. Bring fruit with you, snack on it all you like. Sandwiches, salads, yoghurts, rice, pasta. If you feel uncool carrying around a lunchbox, just wait until the end of the week when you’ve already saved enough money to buy a pair of hipster glasses. Then you’ll have a valid reason to feel like an idiot.

3. Cook. Cook a dinner. Don’t say you can’t cook. Jamie is right, so are Bob the Builder and Barack Obama, we can do it, yes we can. Learn just by following simple recipes (such as our recipe for Chicken Tortillas below!), there are thousands free online. Cooking is so quick to learn and so rewarding a skill to have. Save a load of money. Save a load of health. Also, cooking a romantic meal (made different to a regular meal by the presence of candles) is a sure-fire way to impress a partner/potential partner.

4. Beware the alcohol, and its close friend, the chipper. A can of beer can have around 200 Calories, while a pub sized vodka and mineral can have 170 Calories. A burger, chips and a fizzy drink can add up to about 1350 Calories. Forget about your reputation, poorly controlled nights out can have significant effects on your jeans size.

With a thimble full of willpower, in a few days suddenly these things are second nature and you’ve predisposed yourself to a lifetime of better health. As this is aimed at college students maybe the future isn’t a selling point, but your skin will look better and you could afford to upgrade from Dutch Gold.

You’ll still have to go to Penney’s. Sorry.
Lifestyle’s roving eye was on the lookout again this week for the grooviest, sassiest and most voguish hip cats of DIT. As has become the norm around DIT campuses, there was no shortage of stylistic talent. Unconfirmed reports say fashion agents from Paris to Kathmandu have named Out & About as their chief scouting source, so to advance your modelling aspirations/ get your mug in the paper make sure to keep your eyes peeled for our equally stylish photographers. We’re looking for people with panache and an individual style so if you’ve any vintage tunics or monocles lying around don’t be afraid to try something new. Here is what lifestyle plucked from the crowds this week.

Who? Gavin O’ Brien  
Where? Business studies 1st year in Aungier St  
What? Cap worn backwards, jeans hoodie, and nike runners  
Why? Gavin goes for a ‘Laid back’ style

Who? Hannah Cauch  
Where? International business and Italian 1st year Aungier  
What? Wearing Pennys and h & m. She is seen bear wearing an Aztec necklace and long grey top. She has ugg boots and a leather jacket  
Why? Hannah is working as a waitress in the evenings and needs something dark for her job. She mixes the dark clothes into a style that works for casual wear.

Who? Joe Dennehy  
Where? Economics Lecturer in Aungier St  
What? French style hat, heavy rain coat over a black jumper, cord trosers and runners  
Why? Joe describes his style as ‘Very interactive’

Who? Rebecca Brannigan  
Where? Journalism 1st year, Aungier St  
What? Pennys scarf with skinny jeans and a hoodie and boots  
Why? Rebecca’s style is laid back. She describes it as ‘Casual but dressy, I like to wear nice tops!’
50 years of Bond

Luke Carry

Shaken, not stirred for the past 50 years, James Bond. The theme music, the girls, cars and guns have all been different. In fact Bond himself has been six different faces. However the appeal of 007 has never waned. In a classic tale of “Men want to be him, women want to be with him,” James Bond is the perfect action star. Initially expected to last only until the 70’s, Ian Fleming’s James Bond began life on the silver screen as a product of post Second World War and Cold War Western Europe. The Bond of Sean Connery was every bit the cold war spy the times demanded, a cold war spy who would be very out of place in this year’s “Skyfall”. So how did Bond make the transition from brooding Scot to the cool Blonde with bullets that has hit cinema screens worldwide once again? George Lazenby, Connery’s successor adopted a mantle that needed to be redressed and repackaged for quite a different audience and time. However Lazenby only opted for one outing as MI6’s secret weapon as both he and his agent were firm in their belief that the role of James Bond would soon become obsolete. What Lazenby didn’t predict was James Bonds willingness to roll with the times and not against them. This honour fell to Roger Moore. Moore would go on to play Bond on the silver more times than any other actor so far. The success of these bonds relied on their use of the psyche of the time. (e.g., blaxploitation in Live and Let Die, post- Star Wars sci-fi in Moonraker). However Bond, an eternal enemy of the Iron Curtain seemed to have beaten back but kept the bullets and explosions. Bond made it through the 90’s on the back of Brosnans, cigar smoking, Italian suit wearing, suave and managed to arrived into the 21st century, a new man, Daniel Craig. Craig, most notable for his role in “Layer Cake” before reporting for her Majesty’s secret service, brought Bond back to his roots with Casino Royale. On 26 October, this Bond had the highest weekend UK and Ireland openings of the year. Diamonds are forever and seemingly, Bond is too.

Movies

SKY FALLS ON 007

Skyfall

Run Time 143 mins

Paul O’Connor

Skyfall marks the 50th anniversary of the phenomenon that is James Bond by employing an Oscar winning director, in Sam Mendes, to helm this most seminal of 007 incarnations. After the incomprehensible drivel that was Quantum of Solace, it would appear the makers of Bond have rather over-compensated on the prestige front, in order to exercise the aforementioned film from the audience’s collective consciousness.

Oscar winner Javier Bardem plays the obligatory nasty/camp villain with revenge in mind, while fellow Oscar winner Judi Dench sets the ball rolling on his capture before two-time Oscar nominee Ralph Fiennes. Daniel Craig in Skyfall, Photo coutesy of Skyfall

operation. This all plays out in a narrative written by three-time Oscar nominee writer John Logan. Judi Dench was already part of the franchise, but Bardem, Fiennes, the director and the writer are all newcomers to the world of gadgets, nominative determinant bombsbells and dry martinis. Not even this glittering array of talent can disguise the fact that Skyfall is either one excruciatingly long advertisement for Britain, fresh from Olympic Games ‘glory’ and punctuated by product placement, or is one excruciatingly protracted product placement vehicle derailed by a lamentable ode to all things ‘great’ about Britain. The makers of this film, no doubt worried of too subtle a touch, actually have one of the main characters read out an excerpt from a poem by Great Britain Poet Laureate Lord Alfred Tennyson as the quasi soundtrack for a chase scene through central London. London itself, the Tube, a reference to Northern Ireland, Big Ben, a porcelain bulldog, Judi Dench as a wink-wink ‘Queen’ again, and Scotland, were apparently not enough to remind the audience that Skyfall will continue to ‘keep the Aspidistra flying’. However many times Skyfall segues (briefly) to action set pieces or chase scenes this mawkish motif remains firmly entrenched in your consciousness, preventing suspension of disbelief – a function of the mind wholly necessary for a Bond film. Perhaps if the action scenes were not generic, bloodless affairs then this in fact could be achieved, but the gittiness and violence, at least for a Bond film, imbued in the Casino Royale action are ‘MIA’. If however, you manage to get past it all then good luck ignoring the ubiquitous advertisements for Omega watches.

Diamonds are forever and seemingly, Bond is too.
CULTURE

Upcoming in Dublin

Dublin Book Festival 13 – 18 November with events taking place in the Smock Alley Theatre, The Gutter Bookshop, Pearse Street Library and the National Library of Ireland. Details of Events can be found on http://www.dublinbookfestival.com


Breaking Dawn Part 2 – released on November 16

This week in Cultural History

7th November
-1980 – American actor Steve McQueen (Bullitt, The Great Escape) dies at age 50.

8th November
-1971 – The album ‘Led Zeppelin IV’, including the song ‘Stairway to Heaven’, was released. This became one of the best-selling albums of all time.

9th November
-1921 – Albert Einstein wins the Nobel Prize for his “services to theoretical physics”.

10th November
-1969 – Sesame Street premiered in PBS TV

11th November
-2012 – Titanic star Leonardo DiCaprio turns 38.

12th November
-1929 – Grace Kelly (actress and Princess of Monaco) was born.
-2012 – The Dark Knight Rises actress Anne Hathaway turns 30.

13th November
-1997 – The Disney musical The Lion King officially opened on Broadway.
-1992 – The movie Bram Stoker’s Dracula premiers, with Gary Oldman as the title character and also starring Keanu Reeves.

Book Review

Guilty Pleasure

The Top Gear Years

By Jeremy Clarkson

Darragh Mowlds
Deputy Sports Editor

Jeremy Clarkson’s latest book, The Top Gear Years, is another hilarious offering from the grumpiest man of all time. This book is a change from the norm because it takes articles from every year since the start of his TV show, Top Gear. The show has existed in two forms, but Clarkson originally appeared on the show in 1993. What’s remarkable is that his style of writing really hasn’t changed; the only thing you could say is that he may have gotten a bit grumpier. He’s a man that divides opinion, but I can firmly say that I think he is fantastic. One week he’ll offend half of Britain by slagging truck drivers, French people, vegans, or generally whatever comes into his head, and the next he’ll be going backwards at 200 miles an hour while shouting. What you get with Clarkson is a breath of fresh air in a world where people take themselves far too seriously. This is exactly what he preys upon; he annoys people on purpose because it is so easy to do.

Pretty much all of his books go straight into the bestseller list, he fronts one of the world’s most popular television shows and yet, according to certain aspects of the media, he is the worst human being to ever exist. He’s clearly doing something right. His books have shifted between being exclusively his car reviews or exclusively his opinion columns, but both always ended up in the same place – an angry rant. In this little snapshot in time, Clarkson covers topics ranging from the demise of the Concorde to teaching kids how to drive. Like all of his books, this is a collection of things that annoy him, and my God that list appears to be endless. I sincerely hope that things continue to annoy him though, because I love these books.

I know no one is reading Jeremy Clarkson for life inspiration (he’s not exactly Shakespeare is he?) but as guilty pleasures go, you can’t get much better. It’s a win-win situation, Clarkson can stick two fingers up to the environmentalists, the government, and whoever else irks him, while we can roll around laughing at it. Very entertaining.

Very entertaining.

Movies

ARRAGO ON!

Argo

Run Time 120 mins

Luke Carrey

Ben Affleck has had a hit and miss 15 years in show business, from the highs of his first feature Gone Baby Gone, co-written with fellow Boston boy Matt Damon, to failing to launch the Daredevil superheros franchise. Affleck has also been involved in any number of tabloid focused scandals and romances, not least of which was his romance with Jennifer Lopez, or ‘Jennifer’ as they were christened by the media.

However, with the release of his directorial debut, 2008’s Gone Baby Gone, Affleck resurrected his career while launching that of his brother Casey. His follow up, The Town, proved that Affleck was far more than a one hit wonder, and “Argo” has become the next in his line of solid directing and acting roles. Argo’s plot is a stranger-than-fiction story. After the fall of the US embassy in post-revolution Tehran, six officers evade capture and pose as the crew of a fictionalized movie, “Argo”.

The real kicker is that it’s a true story. As a film, Argo, a Star Wars rip-off, was once highly tipped in Variety magazine, but never got the green light for some unknown reason – until the release of declassified CIA papers. Affleck himself plays CIA agent Tony Mendez, a heroes role that Affleck embodies in a way he failed to do in Pearl Harbor. The reason for this is the characters modesty; there are no loud passionate speeches about saving lives, and no looking for plaudits. Mendez gets the job done in a quiet humble way.

While Argo is firmly placed in the spy genre, it has its comedic moments, gifted to the screen through Affleck’s use of John Goodman and Alan Arkin. Goodman plays John Chambers, the man who won an Oscar for his effects work on Planet of the Apes, to great comedic effect. However, more of the comedy comes in a darker tone from man of the moment Brian Cranston, possibly better known these days as Walt, from TV series, Breaking Bad. Cranston gets all the film’s best lines, which, for Argo’s sake, is probably a good thing.

The movie has come at the right end of the year for awards season, and Affleck has become a twinkle in the eye of Tinseltown. All the elements are there for a movie worthy script: the CIA, the movie crews in post-revolution Tehran, and an escape to freedom plot. But it’s Affleck’s ability to blend these features into a perfect Molotov cocktail of spy drama that will win viewers over.

Look out for a sharply dressed Affleck among the nominations on Oscar night, and try to forget his Dare Devil days; he is most certainly beyond them.

Argo is on general release now.
Ireland’s top four bands, unsigned and undiscovered

Connor Keane

White Collar Boy
Electronic-garage duo White Collar Boy have proven to be one of the most exciting Irish acts to watch so far this year. The group, made up of Gavin White and Mark Cummins, have been steadily working away, and successfully earning themselves a spot near the forefront of the Irish music scene.

With the release of a highly-anticipated EP, live shows both here and abroad, and appearances at some of Ireland’s biggest festivals, the group are determined to bring their music to as wide an audience as possible. It’s a good thing too, as their latest release, Kinale, is filled with songs that you simply cannot help but nod your head to.

It is always nice to see Irish acts supporting other Irish acts, and White Collar Boy do their bit while hosting a bi-weekly Thursday night residency in Pygmalion, roping in the best new Irish acts to perform.

White Collar Boy set the bar incredibly high for the quality of music coming out of this city. To see the guys in action, check out their live set in The Grand Social on New Year’s Eve.

We Arrive Alive
If you’re searching for the perfect soundtrack to almost any situation, look no further than Dublin/Wicklow based instrumentalists, We Arrive Alive. This seven-piece group mash together countless emotions, and churn them out in the form of diverse, story-telling songs.

Since the release of their latest EP, My Friend The Bommbaker, in July of this year, the band have been busy racking up performances around the country. Although they’re currently working hard on what is set to be their first full-length release, We Arrive Alive eagerly insist it will not come in the form of a “normal CD album”.

Having already put out two very different releases, it will be interesting to see what these guys come up with next.

Both of the band’s EPs are available as free downloads on Bandcamp.

Eatenbybears
This Belfast-based four-piece are not ones for putting themselves in a box. Having just unveiled their new single, ‘Your Pet Is Dead’, Eatenbybears have shown off yet another side to the band’s sound.

Refusing to be confined to one genre, Eatenbybears find themselves cracking out upbeat bongos into one minute, and dark, sinister, distorted guitars, the next. This blending of genres makes for an interesting listen, and keeps their live shows diverse. It feels like these guys do what they want, when they want, and it’s incredibly refreshing.

‘Your Pet Is Dead’ is due out as a free download on November 15th. A free headline show is also on the cards for the same day, in The Twisted Pepper, to celebrate the release.

The Notas
Formed in 2010, The Notas have emerged as one of the most promising young indie bands that Dublin has to offer. Often being compared to the likes of Foals and Wu Lyf, their catchy melodies and up-beat tunes have a way of easily worming their way into your head. Influenced by the different cultural backgrounds of the band members, they come together to form an excellent blend of feel-good music, without lacking depth.

Last year saw the release of their See You When The Sun’s Out EP, and the band are currently finishing up work on a second EP. They’ll be appearing in The Workman’s Club as part of the First Music Contact tour on November 10th, sharing the bill with both We Cut Corners and Squarehead.

Old timey good clean fun

Pokey LaFarge - Concert review

Joanne Armstrong

Folk music fans drifted back to the 1930s last week when Pokey LaFarge and The South City Three brought their vintage swing to Whelan’s. LaFarge set the scene with a simple greeting: “We’re Americans, and we’re here to make you dance tonight.”

Whether you’re shouting the refrain of ‘Two-Faced Tom’ back to the band or offering the odd “hey, baby” to the lucky shotgun. He is a classic showman, even with the notes of ‘Two-Faced Tom’ back to the band or offering the odd “hey, baby” to the lucky shotgun. He is a classic showman, even back hair and holds his guitar like a retro-woodsman.

Since the release of their latest album, Meet the Lower South, Pokey and his boys are working on a string of EPs. ‘The Notas’ are just the beginning, and will bring their music to as wide an audience as possible. It’s a good thing too, as their latest release, Kinale, is filled with songs that you simply cannot help but nod your head to.

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Pokey LaFarge - Concert review

Shauna Irwin, Culture Editor

Dublin is preparing to welcome Hey Rosetta! to the stage, as the Canadian six-piece make their way towards the Emerald Isle.

Hey Rosetta! is an indie rock band that originated in Canada. The band, which started their third European tour on Sunday, is playing at three venues in Britain before coming to our capital.

This is not the band’s first appearance in Dublin, according to bassist, Josh Ward, speaking in interview with the Edition.

“We were in Dublin earlier this year. It was the first time we had ever been there.”

The gig was played at the Sugar Club on Lower Leeson Street, and Josh has fond memories of the band’s Irish audience.

“Yeah it was great. We had a really good time last time. There was a really big crowd which was excellent.”

The six piece started “the same as any other band,” according to the bassist.

“A couple of us were already friends, and Tom had written a few things so we got together. The band changed but it’s been the same people for the last five years.”

Hey Rosetta! now consists of Tim Baker on vocals, guitar, piano, Josh Ward on bass, Adam Hogan on lead guitar, and Phil Maloney on drums. The band also contains a string section with Kinley Dowling on violin, and Romesh Thavanathan playing cellos.

They were the winners of the ECMAs (East Coast Music Association) Album of the Year, and Group Recording of the Year in April 2012. The winning album, Seeds, showed off the group’s unique fusion of piano, cello, and violin for all 11 tracks. The album name indicates a fundamental theme that runs through the album itself: “Seeds are important. They are food and future.” This concept is explored quite plainly in the lyrics of each song.
Derry’s red flag flying high in FAI Cup Final

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

In a dramatic FAI Ford Cup final, Derry City recovered from two setbacks against St Patrick’s Athletic, to lift the trophy for the third time in ten years.

After going behind early in the second half to a Sean O’Connor free kick, Derry took only moments to get themselves back level, as Stewart Greacen found space in the box to head in a cross. Cue the first of four renditions of Teenage Kicks, from the Derry fans.

The ‘candy-stripes’ then went ahead when Rory Patterson, who had only been on the field for nine minutes, slotted home a penalty. St Pat’s can only have themselves to blame for this goal, as goalkeeper Brendan Clarke made a mess of a rebound.

As the final whistle went, Derry fans received rapturous applause in the post-match celebrations.

Stephen McLaughlin and Barry McNamara were on target for Derry, while the powerhouse of Rory Patterson had the final say in the game. In the final 15 minutes, Derry were perhaps guilty of sitting back too much, but there were certainly chances for St Pat’s. Derry goalkeeper, Gerard Doherty, received rapturous applause in the post-match celebrations.

It was not booked for the foul, but credit is due to referee Neil Doyle, who kept cards to a minimum and was rewarded with a relatively good-natured game.

In Washington a team win by Carolina Panthers in the fourth quarter, to 24-20

Liam Kennedy
7th November

- 1943 – The last scoreless draw to date in the NFL, in a match between the Detroit Lions and the New York Giants.
- 2011 – Legendary boxer “Smokin’” Joe Frazier died.

8th November
- 1974 – Former Juvento hero Alessandro Del Piero (currently of Sydney FC) was born.
- 2007 – Major League Soccer (MLS) announced as part of their plans for expansion that the Seattle Sounders would be the 15th franchise to join the American league.

10th November
- 2012 – Former Arsenal Goalkeeper Jens Lehmann turns 43.

11th November
- 1965 – Heaviest weight Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) KO’s Floyd Patterson in Las Vegas.
- 2012 – Germany and Bayern Munich captain Philipp Lahm turns 29.

12th November
- 1995 – New Zealand cricketer Martin Crowe’s last day of test cricket.

13th November

14th November
- 2012 – Arsenal captain Thomas Vermaelen turns 27.

15th November
- 1964 – Dutch legend Johan Cruyff made his Ajax debut.

16th November
- 2012 – Manchester United veteran Paul Scholes turns 38.

17th November
- 1940 – Green Bay Packers become first NFL team to travel by plane.

18th November
- 1963 – Former Man United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel was born.

19th November
- 1969 – Pelé scores his 1000th goal of his professional career against Vasco da Gama in Rio de Janeiro.

20th November
- 2004 – Iconic Brazil captain Socrates returned to the pitch for the first time in 15 years, making a solitary appearance for amateur English side Garforth Town.

NFL reaches halfway point of season

Jack Maher

As the NFL regular season reaches halfway, teams are pretty clear where they stand in relation to the playoff.

This week’s standout game saw the Pittsburgh Steelers travel to face the New York Giants, a game which pitted the two sides and quarterbacks, who have taken home four of the last eight super-bowls.

A 51-yard touchdown reception from Mike Wallace was the highlight for Steelers’ offence. However, it was their superior defence (still without seven time pro-bowlers) that played a crucial role in the game.

The game only sparked into life in the fourth quarter, overcoming a 20-10 deficit, to win 24-20 and thus improving to 5-3 for the season.

The game was perhaps less about the final score, and more about the run of games leading up to the match. It was a case of the Giants QB, whose ability to make big fourth quarter plays has been a feature of his career, failed to complete a touchdown pass all game and uncharacteristically went three-and-out on three occasions in the final quarter.

Atlanta remains the only unbeaten side in NFL 8.0, following 19-13 win over the Cowboys. The game only sparked into life in the fourth quarter after a touchdown pass by Dallas QB Tony Romo made it a three point game.

However, a long drive from Atlanta, helped by Dallas indiscipline, ran down the clock and ended with a field goal. This gave possession to Dallas with 17 seconds remaining, which soon elapsed, giving Atlanta the win.

In Indianapolis no.1 draft pick Andrew Luck continues to impress for the Colts. He broke the single game passing record for his career against the Bengals.

In Washington a team win by Carolina Panthers in the fourth quarter, to 24-20

Colin Layde
Deputy News Editor

The event at London’s O2 sees the top eight players in the world compete for a prize fund of over €3 million.

Andy Murray will be looking to cap a breakthrough season by adding the title to his US Open and Olympic victories. The event will mark the first occasion the Scot has played in Britain, since winning his maiden grand slam title at Flushing Meadows.

Murray’s rivalry with Novak Djokovic has been a feature of the latter part of the season. The Serb enters the tournament knowing his position as world number one is secure and will be looking to cement his status with a victory in London.

Six-time champion Roger Federer will attempt to defend the title he won last year. At 31, the Swiss player continues to perform at the highest level having won his fifteenth grand slam title at SW19 earlier this year. Federer elected to miss last week’s Paris Masters, in an effort to ensure he is in prime condition for the defence of his title.

World number four Rafael Nadal will miss the event due to on-going knee problems. The seven-time Roland Garros champion has now missed the last four months of the season. Given his relentless style of play and history of knee problems, there are now serious questions over the longevity of his career.

Nadal’s countryman, David Ferrer, will be looking to cap a fine season by winning his eighth title of 2012. Ferrer beat Polish qualifier Jerzy Janowicz in the final of the Paris Masters on Sunday. The victory was Ferrer’s first in a Masters Series event and he enters the event playing the best tennis of his career.

ATP Tour sees top eight players fight for 3 million euro

Sporting History

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Cycling is riddled with dopes

Colin Layde
Deputy News Editor

Armstrong has captured all of the headlines following the United States Anti-Doping Authorities (USADA) decision to publish its evidence against the cyclist. However, the most remarkable part of the USADA report is the sheer scale of doping the investigation uncovered.

This was not a lone individual choosing to dope but a professional team orchestrated to cheat. USADA accused Armstrong of “p tactically and surgically all the sophisticated doping programme ever conducted in sport”.

Armstrong was not alone in their contempt for cycling’s rules. It is now estimated that 90 per cent of the peloton doped during the Armstrong years.

Recent times have seen some progress with teams beginning to adopt a more vocal anti-doping stance. Team Sky has been vociferous in their anti-doping stance. Upon entering professional cycling in 2009, Team Sky was committed to providing a British winner of the Tour de France and to do it with a team untainted by doping.

The first of these commitments was realised last year when Bradley Wiggins became the first Briton to win the Maillot Jaune. The team’s resolve to abide by the second has been underlined in the wake of the Armstrong scandal.

Following the publication of USADA’s report,loyal Sky requested all of its riders and support staff to sign a commitment they had never doped previously.

Failure to do so or subsequent exposure of past doping would result in immediate dismissal. The policy has resulted in the departure of rider Michael Barry and four members of staff in recent weeks.

It is unrealistic to expect other teams to follow suit, given the apparent endemic drug usage amongst the peloton.

Many of the riders who competed against Armstrong in this period when doping was ubiquitous are still active.

 Armstrong’s former Astana teammate Alberto Contador recently returned from a doping ban to win the Vuelta Espana. The Spaniard maintains his innocence and was rehired by Danish team Saxo Bank immediately after his suspension. Contador is the favourite for the next Tour de France.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) has pledged to ban any rider caught doping for life and to prevent them having any future involvement in professional cycling. UCI President Pat McQuaid’s recently labelled Armstrong’s former team mates Floyd Landis and Tyler Hamilton “scammers” despite their decision to co-operate with the USADA investigation.

McQuaid’s comments are hardly likely to encourage other riders to come forward and disclose doping offences.

The UCI should offer complete amnesty to all riders and team officials in return for complete disclosure of past or present doping.

Only then can the sport move on from the most sordid period in its history.

Amnesty would allow men like Armstrong, should he confess, to give back to a sport they have taken so much from. Suarez provides an easy target for opposition fans, such as his way of conducting himself. His behaviour on and off the pitch has made even Liverpool’s loyal supporters question their idol.

What is not in doubt however, is his ability to stamp his mark on a game. The Uruguayan draws criticism from managers all across England, not least in the shape of David Moyes. The boss of cross-city rivals Everton, made sure he got his message across to Suarez’s tendency to go to ground under minimal contact. Rather than upset the striker, the insult seemed to fire him up ahead of the Merseyside derby, showing his sense of humour as he dived at the feet of Moyes after opening the score at Goodison Park.

Another criticism that is often levelled at the controversial striker is his lack of efficiency in front of goal. Pandillas all largely have the same opinion that he is a great player, but not a great finisher. However, his return of seven goals in the opening ten league games is only bettered by Manchester United summer signing, Robin Van Persie.

The only question is, will Suarez stay at Liverpool for the duration of their rebuilding period? At the time of his signature he was bought under the pretences that he would partner Fernando Torres, only for the Spaniard to join Chelsea for a record sum days later.

These days Suarez finds himself the leader of a pack that consists of youngsters Suso and Raheem Sterling. Although they have youth on their side, Suarez deserves to be surrounded by a higher class of player. Liverpool fans will be clinging onto the fact that he signed a new contract in the summer, but it seems inevitable that Liverpool’s jewel in their crown will be departing come the summer.

“Referees aren’t good enough”

Darragh Mowlds
Deputy Sports Editor

“If a player is in an offside position when the ball is touched or played by a teammate, he may not become actively involved in play.” Right, how hard can it be?

Last weekend’s Super Sunday was incredible for two reasons, one, it was actually a super Sunday, the first real one in ages. A Merseyside derby and United Chelsea, what more could you ask for. The second thing we learned is that Chelsea is the least self-aware team in the world.

Making a very public complaint, alleging that Chelsea was bought under the pretences that he would partner Fernando Torres, only for the Spaniard to join Chelsea for a record sum days later.

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How much longer can Liverpool hold on to Suarez, asks James Hopper

Looking at Liverpool’s thin bare squad, it is hard to pick out any true world-class players. Some may argue that Steven Gerrard is still in that bracket, but these days Liverpool only have one key to unlock most doors, Luis Suarez.

The Anfield club’s failure to secure a replacement striker for the departure of Andy Carroll on loan, has forced Brendan Rodgers to revise his targets drastically for his first campaign.

Clint Dempsey had his heart set on a move to Anfield this summer, but The Reds’ board of directors wouldn’t stump up the necessary cash, leaving Tottenham Hotspur to snatch their primary transfer target.

Such brinkmanship has left Liverpool with only one out-and-out striker to lead their team in their quest back to the upper echelons of English football.

 Suarez provides an easy target for opposition fans, such as his way of conducting himself. His behaviour on and off the pitch has made even Liverpool’s loyal supporters question their idol.

What is not in doubt however, is his ability to stamp his mark on a game. The Uruguayan draws criticism from managers all across England, not least in the shape of David Moyes. The boss of cross-city rivals Everton, made sure he got his message across to Suarez’s tendency to go to ground under minimal contact. Rather than upset the striker, the insult seemed to fire him up ahead of the Merseyside derby, showing his sense of humour as he dived at the feet of Moyes after opening the score at Goodison Park.

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Ireland have a lot to prove in autumn internationals

Jack Maher

After the abysmal 60-0 defeat to world champions New Zealand in Ireland’s last test, one of Declan Kidney’s first tasks will be to consign Hamilton to the history books.

He also has a lot of unresolved issues to cope with, the primary one being finding a new captain.

This has resulted from the loss of two of his most loyal lieutenants Brian O’Driscoll and Rory Best, and with question marks over the fitness of previous stand-in captain Paul O’Connell perhaps it is time to look to the future.

Leading the list of potential captains for the November series would have to be Leinster’s no.8 Jamie Heaslip who since his introduction to the Irish side has been touted as a future captain, and with 50 caps behind him the time is ripe to pass the mantle to the Kildare man.

Adding to Heaslip’s credentials is his astonishing record when he has stepped in as skipper for province; he is also in a rich vein of form following a dip last season.

Heaslip’s exploits with Leinster raises another issue with the national team, as Kidney has failed to translate the success of the provincial sides to the international set-up.

This is highlighted by the fact that in a period where Irish sides have taken home five of the last seven Heineken Cups, the International side has only managed to bring home one Six Nations Crown.

On top of these issues Kidney also has to deal with waning public opinion which has plagued him since coming back a year ago from a satisfactory World Cup performance.

Then the country was basking in the glory generated from a famous win over Australia, and although the quarterfinal exit was somewhat disappointing, Ireland rugby and the national brand were in a good place.

Since the World Cup however the Irish side has won just two of eight games, with a loss to lowly Namibia in the World Cup zone allowing them to be effective. So if the Irish side manages to gain parity up front in the physical stakes, the added flair of the backs may allow them to overcome both sides.

The middle game of the series at Thomond Park against Fiji is a chance to give game time to those on the periphery of the squad as well as a chance to stake a claim for a place in the first team.

The 2012-2013 season culminates in the British and Irish Lions tour to Australia, making the remainder of the season vital for players hoping to catch the eye of head-coach Warren Gatland.

With Irish captains at the two previous tours (Brian O’Driscoll New Zealand 2005 and Paul O’Connell South Africa 2009) the trend is unlikely to continue at the 2013 edition of the tour.

Perhaps the favourites to captain Warren Gatland’s side would be Wales captain Sam Warburton or England captain Chris Robshaw. With Gatland’s existing familiarity with Warburton as head coach it seems that he will get the nod.

Despite the fact an Irish player may not be competing for captaincy, a number of players will be hoping to stake a claim for a first appearance in the Lions squad, including Johnny Sexton and Sean O’Brien.
Dublin’s marathon man

Colin McGlinchey

It’s the only day of the year when a man dressed head to toe in Adidas gear can publicly urinate in Merrion Square while a member of An Garda Siochana stands by. Participants encouraged to drink as much electrolyte infused liquid before the race now find themselves desperate for a bathroom, and given the lengthy queues reduce themselves to 3am drunkers. No one notices though, as there’s an excitement in the air and a spring in the step of each competitor, it’s the 33rd Dublin Marathon.

I was told I would die by enthusiastic friends. Packing my corpse into a body bag would be but a minor disruption to an ancestor use to hike across lands far and wide just to find a boar to slay for lunch. Ancestral instinct inside us that can push our lesser healthcare). Strength of our biological ancestors (with animal instinct inside us that can push our training was exciting at first, running for years. I talked to a few overseas competitors and they all commented on how friendly everyone was and that it was the most fun they’ve had at a marathon. The Dublin Marathon is an absolute gem. Hopefully sponsorship issues are sorted next year as Ireland cannot afford to let an event which is a common issue (proof if ever there is no God) and some men have to go as far as wearing nipple bras! Luckily all mine needed was a new shirt with better material but suspicions that marathon runners are a bit sadistic started to arise.

Race day came and I secretly wished for sub four hours, but as I found out during training my family have bad knees (possibly karma for some republican kneecap- ping my relatives up North may or may not have been involved with so deep down I knew to complete the race in anything less than 4hours and 30minutes would be a success. I took to the starting line, amid an enthusiastic crowd of 14,300 people, and soon felt involved in something very special. I knew this would be my one and only marathon. Training takes too long. Three hour runs followed by a day of recovery does not suit a busy lifestyle. But standing in a crowd of people who all had been through the agony of 20 mile runs, blisters within blisters within blisters, and nipple torture, I felt appreciative that I was getting to take part in this great event in this great city. Suddenly the adrenaline started to pump and taking down a few Kenyans didn’t seem so far from reality.

Despite the lack of a major sponsor leading to no TV coverage for this year’s mara- thon, support was still fantastic. Chapel-oill was a particular highlight, were locals waved banners reading ‘RUN! Zombies are chasing you!’ Another in Dolphins Barn encouraged us to ‘Run like you stole something’. Humour was on display and the runners loved it. My personal highlight was a father daughter ukulele playing combo, who appeared (I counted) four times throughout the course. I don’t care if witchcraft was used to transport them they were an absolute joy for their sheer love and enthusiasm for the athletes. And hats off to Spar who despite charging a fiver for a tea bag put drummers outside all their stores to encourage us on.

The race takes a bit of a downturn as it heads out to UCD, and although there were still some great supporters there’s just less character in the surroundings to distract the eyes, and by mile 19 I was feeling the burn. Around mile 21 I let myself down and walked for half a kilometre to let my knees reset themselves. This was the one thing I didn’t want to do as once you walk once, you will walk again. Luckily I was spared and at mile 22 I suddenly got a sec- ond wind and the last few miles I regained a spring in my step. Crossing the line at 4.35mins I was a bit disappointed in not breaking the 4.30mins mark but incredibly relieved to have both my knees and ankles intact. Plus I managed to outrun a South African on the closing stretch (yes a white South African). Would I do it again? No. Would I recommend it? Yes, well, once. Knowing you’ve done a marathon is a glorious feeling and something I can always reference in whis- key induced one-upmanship. Much respect to anyone who completes the marathon, in whatever time as this is a tough race; it re- ally is as gruelling as people tell you it is. I talked to a few overseas competitors and they all commented on how friendly everyone was and that it was the most fun they’ve had at a marathon. The Dublin Marathon is an absolute gem. Hopefully sponsorship issues are sorted next year as Ireland cannot afford to let an event which showcases how friendly and funny we really are slip through its fingers.

DIT Tennis player through to intervarsity semis

Danielle Stephens

Sports Editor

DIT’s Richard Duffy made it to the semi-final of the tennis Intervarsities despite the college not having a tennis club.

The second year student from Monaghan was the only person from DIT to attend the tournament that had participants from the likes of Athlone IT, Trinity College, UCD and Letterkenny IT.

Unfortunately the semis saw him play a UCC student who had been playing the sport for a lot longer than him and Duffy was beaten.

The second year student admitted that “I’ve a long way to go after seeing the standard up there (the Intervarsity tournament)”. However, Duffy explains that he’s only a newcomer to the sport after watching it for years. He only started playing in January of last year and finds it hard to practice while he’s up in Dublin.

Although he would like to play once a week while in the city he says that it’s not worth his while. In the case of most tennis clubs you must pay membership fees. After competing in the single events tournament, Richard is unable to head up to Belfast to take part in the team event in February of next year.

This is due to the fact that DIT doesn’t currently have a tennis club which means there is no team to send. Duffy believes that this is a result of the college not having tennis courts. Without tennis courts there isn’t any interest for new members.

DIT tried to fix this problem a couple of years ago. Herbie McClelland, one of the DIT sports officers, organised the rental of tennis courts and hired a tennis coach to put in place weekly training sessions.

The result was that three people turned up. The college consequently spent a large amount of money paying for these facili- ties up without actually using them.

Tennis courts are one of the many fea- tures in the plan for the new Grangegor- man campus to be built in 2015.

The question is whether or not they’ll be up to the standard of the Westwood tennis club in Leopardstown, where the Intervar- sities took place.

Duffy was amazed by the venue: “I’ve never seen anything like it. It was class”.

DIT’s Sports Office say student who wants to enter an intervariety will be fund- ed by the college even if no club exists.

Richard will focus on studying physics in Kevin Street for the time being and will be looking forward to competing in next year’s Intervarsitys.